



Neighborhood Resiliency Projects Advisory Committee

Committee Members

Clare McCord, Chair
Curt Dyer, Vice Chair
Ronald Starkman
Karin Matos
Julie Basner
Barbara Montero

TO: Members of the Neighborhood Resiliency Projects Advisory Committee

DATE: January 30, 2025

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Neighborhood Resiliency Projects Advisory Committee on January 30, 2025 Meeting

Present: Clare McCord, Curt Dyer, Karin Matos, Ron Starkman

Absent: Barbara Montero, Julie Basner

City Staff: Amy Knowles, Rolando Martinez, Juanita Ballesteros, David Gomez, Ariel Guitian, Lauren Firtel,

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

C. McCord calls meeting to order.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

C. McCord moved to approve the November 13, 2024, minutes. K. Matos seconded. Approved unanimously.

PHASE II WEST AVENUE: TIMING, INFORMATION FLOW & HARMONIZATION AGREEMENTS

C. McCord transitioned the conversation to D. Gomez.

D. Gomez then introduced himself as the Capital Improvements Projects (CIP) Director then gave a brief overview of the West Ave. Project and addressed harmonization projects and its concerns.

C. McCord inquired if these harmonization projects are experiencing higher than average resistance.

D. Gomez assured the process is routine and CIP is actively educating property owners. He further explained that these property owner meetings are held one-on-one.

Discussion ensued among committee members regarding harmonization efforts and the value of resident ambassadors in helping facilitate City-to-property owner communication.

C. McCord inquired whether QR codes are being posted to provide residents with access to project information and short informational videos to make the details more digestible.

D. Gomez and L. Firtel confirmed that QR codes are available for some major projects. However, they noted a significant portion of progress in these projects takes place out of sight, (e.g., underground work)

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meaning residents may not notice the extent of work completed. L. Firtel shared photos of the underground West Avenue pump station work.

C. Dyer asked about the timeline for completing the West Avenue Bridge project.

C. McCord suggested that the city provide more information, including before-and-after photos, fact sheets with staff profiles, video testimonials and establishing an ambassador program.

FIRST STREET AND FUTURE PROJECTS

R. Starkman asked whether the 1st Street project would be the next major initiative.

D. Gomez clarified that this is a Public Works project, with Capital Projects serving as a resource during the design and planning phases.

A. Guitian stated that the first round of harmonization will begin once the proposed drawings are received from the team. At that point, one-on-one meetings with property owners will commence.

Staff outlined the process and that many property owners have been contacted. However, coordination can be complex, as properties may have multiple stakeholders.

FUTURE COMMITTEE TOPICS/ DISCUSSIONS

C. McCord emphasized exploring new ways to communicate with the community and keep residents informed, noting that effective communication can help prevent the spread of misinformation.

L. Firtel stated that the city's Grant Department is seeking letters of support and encouraged the committee to ask their buildings if they would like to participate.

The committee expressed their support and confirmed that they would work on gathering these letters and securing community backing.

C. McCord inquired whether the city has an existing database to identify potential ambassadors who could facilitate communication.

L. Firtel responded that while the city has collected and maintains organized email lists, that no single individual would be able or willing to attend all meetings, given the volume of engagements.

R. Starkman requested that the FPL project and Mid Beach Alton Road projects be further discussed and elaborated on at the next meeting for updates.

A. Knowles mentioned that the State of Florida is launching a new home elevation program. She noted that details about the program are still limited, but it is expected to be faster than federal programs.



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FUTURE MEETING DATES

The committee discussed the dates and times of meetings for the remainder of the year.

STAFF UPDATES

A. Knowles informed the committee about the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan Community Meeting on February 20th at 6 PM at the Miami Beach Botanical Garden. She also provided updates on a referral item to the Land Use and Sustainability Committee regarding the draft adaptation plan, and suggested presenting it at the next meeting. Additionally, she shared key updates on the 2025 Private Property Adaptation Plan, including the city's process, key dates, and expected participation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

C. McCord makes a motion to adjourn. K. Matos seconds.